

**Road Improvements Coming to Carmel Valley and Del Mar Heights
Council President Scott Peters, First District
For the Carmel Valley News, June 2007**

Thanks to the help of the Torrey Pines Planning Board, new medians are planned for Del Mar Heights Road. Now is your chance to help decide whether those medians will be stamped concrete, or will be landscaped with plants and native vegetation. Residents along certain areas of Del Mar Heights Road should have received their ballots for the Del Mar Heights Road Maintenance Assessment District ("MAD"). On May 14, the City Council, in a unanimous vote, gave the go-ahead to begin the mail-in ballot process. Property owners in the proposed assessment zone can decide whether they would support a small yearly fee to provide landscaping commensurate with the quality of your community.

Last month, I talked about some of the benefits an assessment district provide for communities that already have them like Bird Rock, such as well-maintained landscaping and traffic calming. There are 48 MAD's across the City, 35 of which maintain planted medians. I have always felt that we should offer residents the choice of paying for neighborhood investments and enhancements such as landscaped medians.

I encourage all residents in the MAD zone to return their ballots by the July 10 deadline. On that day, the City Council will convene a hearing at which the ballots will be counted. We will know that day whether the MAD is approved. If it is approved, the Council will vote to approve the formation of the district. The first assessments would be collected in December of this year.

When residents approached the City with this idea in 2001, I agreed to help secure funds for the assessment district if approved. The Del Mar Heights MAD is just one of several projects I have lobbied for in Del Mar Heights and Carmel Valley. Since 2000, we have completed the award-winning renovation of the North Torrey Pines Road bridge, permanently closed Sorrento Valley Road to car traffic to create a bike and pedestrian zone, and opened the Northwestern Police Substation in Carmel Valley.

One of the most eagerly awaited community projects is nearly complete. The Carmel Valley Road Enhancement Project brings new amenities to a nearly one-mile stretch of Carmel Valley Road, including bike lanes, pedestrian curb ramps and new storm water protections for Peñasquitos Lagoon.

This is a project I have lobbied hard for since 2000, securing the unanimous support from my former colleagues on the California Coastal Commission in 2003. We broke ground in September of last year. The \$4.6 million project will be complete by the end of this month. Stay tuned for details on a community event to mark the completion of work.

Thank you to everyone in the community for your patience and understanding as crews worked on this important project. I think you will like the results!

